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EXAMINER				
KIM, PAUL				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,165

Applicant(s)

SMITH, GREGORY

Examiner

PAUL KIM

Art Unit

2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 February 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8,10,29-35 and 37-45 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8,10,29-35 and 37-45 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/808)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/1/08
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is responsive to the following communication: Amendment filed on 1 February 2008.
2. Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 29-35, and 37-45 are pending and present for examination.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1 February 2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

4. Claims 1, 29, and 38 have been amended.
5. No claims have been cancelled.
6. No claims have been added.

Information Disclosure Statement

7. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 1 February 2008 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. **Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 10, 29-30, 32, 34-35, 37-39, 41, 43-45** are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park et al (USPGPUB 2004/0024812, hereinafter referred to as PARK), filed on 5 November 2001, and published on 5 February 2004, in view of Heckerman et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,216,134, hereinafter referred to as HECKERMAN), filed on 25 June 1998, and issued on 10 April 2001.

10. **As per independent claims 1, 29, and 38**, PARK, in combination with HECKERMAN, discloses:

A method of searching a plurality of content repositories, comprising:

providing for the representation of the plurality of service provider content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR) {See PARK, Para. [0035], wherein this reads over "an integrate search service for integrating data from various data sources and allowing for search based on search conditions"} that includes a content model {See PARK, Para. [0059], wherein this reads over "a container document object model (DOM) object"},

the content model including a set of content nodes and a set of hierarchy of nodes {See PARK, Para. [0041], wherein this reads over "The containers 74 are stored in a directory 72 having a hierarchical structure, and the directory 72 may include one or more sub-directories"} SUCH that a content node is created for each of the plurality of service provider content repositories {See PARK, Para. 0074, wherein this reads over "all containers can be discriminately identified" and "the node of a content can be searched in a container DOM object, at which the content is positioned, based on an element name and a unique number"},

each content node identifies a service provider content repository, and each content node is associated with its own content schema {See PARK, Para. 0054, wherein this reads over "[t]he converter object repository 90 stores Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL) rules for converting XML provided from the containers 74 in the content repository 70 into a predetermined output format."},

a hierarchy node is created for different types of content available in the plurality of service provider content repositories {See PARK, Para. 0074, wherein this reads over "content in each container can be discriminated from each other"},

each hierarchy node is associated with one or more of the plurality of content nodes {See PARK, Para. [0041], wherein this reads over "The containers 74 are stored in a directory 72 having a hierarchical structure, and the directory 72 may include one or more sub-directories"}, and

each hierarchy node is associated with its own hierarchy schema {See PARK, Para. 0054, wherein this reads over "[t]he converter object repository 90 stores XSL rules for separately converting the two types of XML"};

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providing a plurality application program interfaces (APIs) that interface between a plurality of applications and the VCR (See HECKERMAN, C14:L64-C15:L17, wherein this reads over "a user interface component" and "[t]he user interface component inputs data from the collection storage component and the category storage component and generates the various category graphs which are displayed on display 806");

wherein each one of the plurality of service provider content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) that provides VCR access to each of the corresponding service provider content repositories such that each SPI interfaces between the VCR and the corresponding service provider content repository (See PARK, Para. [0069], wherein this reads over "the content producer can use the content manipulation API 51 in the service publication server");

displaying content nodes and hierarchy nodes of the VCR in an application (See HECKERMAN, Figure 4); to enable searching of the VCR and the service provider content repositories associated therewith⁴;

searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression (See PARK, Para. [0035], wherein this reads over "an integrate search service for integrating data from various data sources and allowing for search based on search conditions"), including the VCR and the service provider content repositories associated therewith; and

providing search results (See PARK, Para. 0035, wherein this reads over "such services can use data from any data source to provide the data to a user and transmit published data to the users terminals regardless of the type of the users terminal and a document format used in the users terminal");

While PARK may fail to expressly disclose a plurality of APIs that interface between a plurality of applications and the VCR wherein content nodes and hierarchy nodes are displayed within said applications, HECKERMAN discloses a user interface component which displays a hierarchy of nodes. Accordingly, the combination of inventions disclosed in PARK and HECKERMAN would disclose an invention comprising a plurality of program interfaces which interface between a plurality of applications and the VCR, wherein the applications provide a display of content nodes and hierarchy nodes. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above invention suggested by PARK by combining it with the invention as disclosed by HECKERMAN.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this modification in order to display the content nodes and hierarchy nodes in response to a search request.

11. **As per dependent claims 3, 30, and 39**, PARK, in combination with HECKERMAN, discloses:

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The method of claim 1 wherein searching the VCR includes: searching each of the plurality of content repositories {See PARK, Para. 0031, wherein this reads over "the service publication server 4 may be provided with a data filtering function of extracting only data satisfying the search conditions in accordance with a given users request and a function of integrating data from a plurality of data sources in a unified format"}.

12. **As per dependent claims 5, 32, and 41**, PARK teaches: PARK, in combination with HECKERMAN, discloses:

The method of claim 1 wherein providing search results includes: combining the results of searching each one of the plurality of content repositories {See PARK, Para. 0031, wherein this reads over "the service publication server 4 may be provided with a data filtering function of extracting only data satisfying the search conditions in accordance with a given users request and a function of integrating data from a plurality of data sources in a unified format"}.

13. **As per dependent claims 7, 34, and 43**, PARK, in combination with HECKERMAN, discloses:

The method of claim 1 wherein providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a VCR includes: extending the content model to store information about the content model in the plurality of content repositories {See PARK, Para. 0074, wherein this reads over "[e]ach container is identified by a directory path 160 in a repository storing the container and its author name"}.

14. **As per dependent claims 8, 35, and 44**, PARK, in combination with HECKERMAN, discloses:

The method of claim 7 wherein: the content model provides a uniform representation of content for the plurality of content repositories {See PARK, Para. [0059], wherein this reads over "a container document object model (DOM) object"}.

15. **As per dependent claims 10, 37, and 45**, PARK, in combination with HECKERMAN, discloses:

The method of claim 1 wherein searching the VCR for information includes:

searching one or more of the content nodes, the content nodes schemas, the hierarchy nodes, and the hierarchy node schemas {See PARK, Para. [0035], wherein this reads over "an integrate search service for integrating data from various data sources and allowing for search based on search conditions"}.

16. **Claims 4, 6, 31, 33, 40, and 42** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PARK, in view of HECKERMAN, and in further view of Official Notice.

17. **As per dependent claims 4, 31, and 40**, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the search expression include at least one of a logical expression, a Boolean operator, a nested expression, an

¹ The Examiner notes that the limitation of "to enable searching of the VCR and the search provider content repositories associated therewith" lacks patentable weight as it recites an intended uses.

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object name, a function/method call, a mathematical function, a mathematical operator, a string operator, an image operator, and Structured Query Language (SQL).

18. **As per dependent claims 6, 33, and 42**, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to cache the search results such that frequently returned search results may be stored for fast access to the user.

Conclusion

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAUL KIM whose telephone number is (571)272-2737. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Apu Mofiz can be reached on (571) 272-4080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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